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CLAIMS:

1.   A method of detecting a boundary of a content item in a digital video stream,
the method comprising the steps of:
-         determining (130) an average bit rate of the video stream over a period of
time, and
5   -   detecting (140) a change of the average bit rate indicating the boundary of the
content item.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the content item is in a digital broadcast video
stream.
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3.   The method of claim 1, comprising the steps of:
-         detecting (125) shot-cuts in the content item, and
-         adjusting (126) the period of time to the detected shot-cuts.

15   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein a moving average of the bit rate is
determined.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the content item is a commercial.

20   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the digital video stream is MPEG-
compressed.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the content item is in an encrypted digital
video stream.
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8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
-         obtaining broadcast schedule data indicating a beginning and/or end of
broadcasting at least one content item,

- verifying whether said broadcast schedule data are in accordance with the detected boundary of a respective content item in the video stream.

9.   The method of claim 1, further comprising a step (150) of determining a position of the detected boundary of the content item within a corresponding period of time.

10.   A device for detecting a boundary of a content item in a digital video stream, the device comprising:

- means (410) for determining an average bit rate of the video stream over a period of time,

- means (420) for detecting a change of the average bit rate indicating the boundary of the content item.

11.   A receiver for receiving at least one content item in a digital broadcast video stream, comprising the device as claimed in claim 10.

12.   A video recorder for recording at least one TV program, comprising:

- a receiver (430) for receiving at least one TV program in a digital video stream,

- the device as claimed in claim 10 in which the content item is the TV program, and

- means (440) for recording the TV program based on its detected boundary in the video stream.

13.   A computer program product enabling a programmable device when executing said computer program product to function as the device as claimed in claim 10.